

**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Dr. Michael Marlo, English, Linguistics

## **Documenting Luyia Together: the Nyole Talking Wordlist**

Matthew DeHass and Michael R. Marlo

As an affiliate of the ASH Scholars *Documenting Luyia Together* team, I have carried out research on an understudied language in the Luyia cluster, Upper Nyole. My written report has been developed on the basis of a 600-item wordlist collected on Upper Nyole in 2019, which includes the orthography of the words on the list and audio pronunciations of each word. The recording was done by Kevin Alulu with Nyole speaker Higenyi Stephen in Uganda. The audio has already been processed, so I have listened to each word, providing and refining a phonetic transcription of the language. From this wordlist, I have carried out phonological analysis on the language, identifying the phonetic inventory and describing the phonemic inventory. The phonetic transcriptions are a work-in-progress, and more data will be necessary to more thoroughly analyze the morphology and phonological rules of the language. In the final version of my project, I plan to describe the inventory of vowels and consonants in Nyole and the phonological rules applying to them in this data set. I will not be addressing tone in this analysis but will briefly look at word structure and syllable structure since this is important to the analysis of some rules specifying the phonemic inventory in this language. This work is intended to be an introduction to Nyole that can be further refined and developed in the future.